

DOROTHY McCARTER  
District Court Judge Helena, Montana  
Pro Se Litigants  
August 24, 2005  
Canon 2

Judge McCarter writes in agreement with the comments of our Supreme Court Chief Justice Karla Gray She has seen the numbers of *pro se* litigants increase tremendously and notes that these *pro se* litigants come to court with little or no knowledge of procedure, evidence or the law, and without the proper pleadings and service of process. She notes the judicial quandary, on the one hand wanting to tell the litigant what to do and how to do it, and on the other hand uncomfortable with advocating his/her case. Judge McCarter finds that judges need guidance as to the scope and manner of their assistance to *pro se* litigants without violating rules of judicial conduct, rules of civil procedure and rules of evidence.

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